

Transcript of Reagan Statement on Report of Strategic Forces Commission

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Following is a White House transcript of a statement by President Reagan today on the report of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces.

Later today, I'll send a report to the Congress which endorses the recommendations of the bipartisan Commission on Strategic Forces and urges prompt Congressional action and support.

This distinguished panel's recommendations are important for two reasons: The actions they propose will preserve stable deterrence and thus protect the peace. And they will add solid incentives and credibility to our efforts to negotiate arms reductions that can pave the way to a more secure and peaceful future.

On the 23d of March, I spoke to the American people about our program for strengthening this nation's security and that of our allies and announced a long-term research effort to reduce, some day, the threat posed by nuclear ballistic missiles.

A week later in Los Angeles, I expanded our efforts to limit and reduce this danger through reliable, verifiable and stabilizing arms control agreements.

Both of these paths lead to a common goal: preventing conflict, reducing the risk of war and safeguarding the peace.

Basic Responsibility

Every American President has accepted this crucial objective as his most basic responsibility. But preserving the peace requires more than wishful thinking and vague good intentions. Concrete, positive action is required to free the world from the specter of nuclear conflict.

And that's why we will continue to work relentlessly to achieve nuclear stability at the lowest possible levels. Our words, policies and actions all make clear to the world our country's deeply held conviction that nuclear war on any scale would be a tragedy of unparalleled scope.

Time and again, America has exercised unilateral restraint, good will and a sincere commitment to effective arms control. Unfortunately, these actions alone have not yet made us truly safer and they haven't reduced the danger of nuclear war. Over the past year, for example, the Soviets have deployed over 1,200 intercontinental ballistic missile warheads, more than the entire Peacekeeper program.

The history of American involvement in arms control shows us what works and what doesn't work. The fact is that in the past our one-sided restraint and good will failed to promote similar restraint and good will from the Soviet Union. They also failed to produce meaningful arms control. But history also teaches us that when the United States has shown the resolve to remain in the arms control game, we have achieved it.

In the late 60's, we made a major effort

to negotiate an antiballistic missile treaty with the Soviet Union. After the Soviet leadership demonstrated clear lack of interest, the Congress agreed to fund an antiballistic missile building program. And the result was predictable.

Treaty in Force

Once the Soviets knew we were going ahead, they came to the negotiating table and we negotiated a treaty. It was formally adopted and remains in force today.

Obviously, the best way to nuclear stability and a lasting peace is through negotiations. And this is the course that we've set. And if we demonstrate our resolve, it can lead to success.

It was against this background that I established a bipartisan Commission on Strategic Forces last January, and directed it to review the strategic program for United States forces with particular emphasis on intercontinental ballistic missile systems and their basing.

A distinguished bipartisan panel of Americans who served on the commission, and those who served as senior counselors, have performed a great service to their country, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Brent Scowcroft, the commission's chairman, other commission members, Harold Brown and the senior consultants, are here today. I want to express my appreciation to you all for a tough job extraordinarily well done. In the finest spirit of bipartisanism, the commission unanimously arrived at clear, important recommendations on some of the most difficult issues of our time. During the past three months, the commission held dozens of formal meetings and numerous small conferences. They talked to over 200 technical experts and consulted closely with the Congress.

Sought Common Objective

The commission members sought a common objective: to achieve a greater degree of national consensus concerning our approach to strategic force modernization and arms control.

As the commission's report concludes, "If we come to see ourselves in dealing with these issues, not as political partisans or as advocates for one specific solution to a part of this complex set of problems, but rather as citizens of a great nation with the humble obligation to preserve in the long-run task of preserving both peace and liberty for the world, a common perspective may finally be found."

Well, these words guided the work of the commission. It is my fervent hope that they will guide all of us as we work toward the solution of what



Kenneth L. Adelman, right, designated head of Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, conferring with R. James Woolsey, left, member of President

Reagan's Commission on Strategic Forces, and Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley of Air Force, back to camera, as they waited for briefing by President.

has been a difficult and lengthy issue. The commission has completed its work and last week submitted its report to me. It was immediately released, as you know, to the public.

After reviewing the report, I met with the National Security Council. They endorsed the commission's recommendations as do all the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And so do I.

First, the commission urges us to continue the strategic modernization program which I announced in October of 1981. It reaffirms that the need remains for improvements in the command, control and communications of our strategic forces and continuation of our bomber, submarine and cruise missile program.

Second, the commission urges modernization of our ICBM forces. We should immediately proceed to develop and produce the Peacekeeper missile and deploy 100 in existing Minuteman silos near Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

At the same time, the commission recommends that we begin engineering the design for a small, single-warhead missile. If strategic and technical considerations warrant, this missile could be ready for deployment in the early 1990's.

Incidentally, this modernization program will save about \$1.5 billion in 1984 and even more than that in each of the next two years. Third, the commission recommends major research efforts in strategic defense and a thorough research program of hardening — making our land-based missile systems more secure.

This modernization effort is a final component of our comprehensive, strategic program. It will mean a safer, more secure America. And it will provide clear evidence to the Soviet Union that it is in their best interest to negotiate with us in good faith and with seriousness of purpose.

That adds up to an important incentive for both arms control and deterrence, for peace and security now and far into the future. Finally, the commission underscores the need for ambitious arms control negotiations, negotiations that would lead to agreements that are balanced, promote stability in time of crisis and result in meaningful, verifiable reductions.

These are precisely the objectives of our arms control proposals now on the table in Geneva. These are — I want to reemphasize that we're in Geneva seeking equitable, reliable agreements that would bring real reductions.

So, the task before us is to demonstrate our resolve, our national will and our good faith. That's absolutely essential both for maintaining an effective deterrent and for achieving successful arms reductions. Make no mistake, unless we modernize our land-based missile systems, the Soviet Union will have no real reason to negotiate meaningful reductions. If we fail to act, we cannot reasonably expect an acceptable outcome in our control negotiations. And we will also weaken the deterrent posture that has preserved the peace for more than a generation.

Therefore, I urge the Congress to join me now in supporting this bipartisan program to pursue arms control agreements that promote stability to meet the needs of our ICBM force

today and to move to a more stable ICBM structure in the future. To follow up on the commission's recommendations, I have asked Brent Scowcroft in his capacity as chairman to keep me closely advised as this issue moves toward resolution, particularly as it relates to arms control.

For more than a decade, each of our administrations made proposals for arms control and modernization. Unfortunately, each became embroiled in political controversy. The members of the commission, the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I have all had to take fresh

looks at our previous positions.

But despite the wide range of views these groups have held in the past, we now have a program that has our unanimous support. Support by the Congress and the American people for this consensus will unite us in our common search for ways to strengthen our national security, reduce the risk of war, and ultimately reduce the level of nuclear weapons. We can no longer afford to delay. The time to act is now.

Thank you all very much for being here, and again, I thank the commission for their fine work.

Scowcroft Panel Favored Old Silos

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19 — The President's Commission on Strategic Forces, headed by Brent Scowcroft, recommended today that President Reagan endorse today for deploying 100 MX missiles in existing Minuteman silos.

In its report April 11, the commission asserted that this would support negotiations for arms control, display national resolve, help redress an imbalance with the Soviet Union and modernize the force of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The commission also said: "The vulnerability of such silos in the near term, viewed in isolation, is not a sufficiently dominant part of the overall problem of ICBM modernization to warrant other immediate steps being taken."

The commission also recommended that a small missile of 15 tons with a single warhead be designed, developed and deployed in the 1990's to supplement the 100-ton MX with its 10 warheads. The commission argued that the smaller missiles would be more flexible and less vulnerable.

In its third major recommendation, the commission urged the President to coach future arms reduction efforts "not in terms of launchers but in terms of equal levels of warheads of roughly equivalent yield."

The commission suggested that the President promote an evolution in nuclear forces in which "each side is encouraged to see the survivability of its own forces in a way that does not threaten the other."

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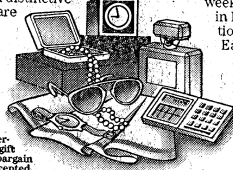
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Budget Tie-Up: Reagan at the Crossroads

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Although there has been little publicity about the budget at the White House lately, President Reagan is approaching what his aides say is a turning point that seems likely to shape the character of his Presidency through the 1984 election.

The decision Mr. Reagan faces is whether to involve himself fully in the effort to break a budget stalemate gripped the Republican-controlled Senate. The Senate Budget Committee has bogged down in disagreement over possible tax increases and other steps to close the gaping Federal deficit in the budget for the 1984 fiscal year.

Realistically, in the view of the White House, the President's impending decision comes down to whether he is prepared to give his blessings to an eventual budget compromise that might be better than what he could get otherwise but is still far from his liking.

Congressional experts agree that any eventual deal on the budget would have to contain more domestic spending, less military spending and more taxes than Mr. Reagan has said he could tolerate.

'A Tough Judgment Call'
The question is whether the President can go into a possible re-election campaign supporting new tax increases and other distasteful items. "Is the game worth the candle?" a White House official asked. "It's a tough judgment call."

Today the White House reaffirmed Mr. Reagan's general commitment to trying to break the budget stalemate. Earlier news reports said key aides were urging him to walk away from it.

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger was reported to have advised the President at a Cabinet meeting to let the drive for a budget resolution fail by the wayside and then veto or sign indi-

vidual appropriation bills as the year progresses.

The White House signaled the President's eagerness to help break the budget impasse. But Administration aides agreed privately that Mr. Reagan had not taken the steps to move that effort along, and that this had dismayed many of his allies in the Senate.

Recovery Linked to Deficit
The problem Mr. Reagan faces is the same one plaguing him since late 1981, when he was first urged by Congressional allies to scale back on key elements of his economic program to get the Federal deficit under control.

There is a new backdrop to Mr. Reagan's problem: the view that the economic recovery, which has apparently begun to show signs of strength, could weaken and die if nothing is done to lower the deficit.

In addition, the White House feels that the differences in Congress on how to approach the deficit problem are far greater this year than in the past. Republicans are more independent of the White House, and Democrats, with a stronger hand because of last year's election results, are better able to press their approach.

That was the warning this week by David A. Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget. Even by Mr. Stockman's standards,

the warning was apocalyptic in tone and seems to have jolted some White House aides, who later said they had been complacent in thinking that the economic recovery would solve all of the Administration's budget problems.

Sees Reagan 'Revolution' in Peril
Mr. Stockman warned that the Reagan "revolution," as well as the economic recovery itself, might be lost as a result of the budget stalemate. In the absence of agreements in Congress to enact new savings, he said, there will be deficits in excess of \$200 billion "as far as the eye can see."

The Congressional budget process has been in existence only since 1974, and its critics are legion. The President, in a moment of exasperation, once called it "Mickey Mouse," although he was able to use the process to great advantage last year and especially in 1981.

Nevertheless, the process is sacred to Mr. Stockman and others. The budget process requires Congress to set overall targets for large categories of spending and revenue, and then to meet those targets in the ensuing months.

The process also gives Congress a vehicle, known as "reconciliation," in which it can tie together a legislative package aimed at enforcing the spending reductions embodied in the original budget resolution. The omnibus reconciliation acts produced Mr. Reagan's great budget victories in the last two years.

Specific Savings Cited
Today Mr. Stockman is warning that if the President does not compromise on the overall resolution, he will not be able to get the specific savings he wants through the reconciliation procedure. A document distributed by Mr. Stock-

man at the Cabinet meeting Monday cited three areas of saving that might be lost if the budget procedure foundered. They are Civil Service retirement programs, Medicaid and Medicare, and welfare, food stamps, child nutrition and other benefits for poor people.

Mr. Reagan has proposed \$55 billion in savings in these areas for next year alone. The Democratic-controlled House has gone on record against almost all of the cuts, and Republicans are wondering whether they have reached the threshold of public acceptability for more cuts in social spending.

In the view of many of his allies, the President's only hope of getting Republicans to fight for the savings is for the White House to yield in other areas, such as taxes and military spending. Their fear, then, is that if the budget process collapses, there will be no hope to control the deficits.

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ERRORS ARE CITED IN MURDER HEARING

Virginia Attorney General Asks Death Sentence Be Lifted

Special to The New York Times
RICHMOND, Va., April 19 — In an unusual admission of errors in a capital murder case, the Virginia Attorney General's office has asked a Circuit Court Judge in Alexandria to vacate the death sentence of a convicted murderer.

Assistant Attorney General Jerry P. Slonaker made the request in a letter to the judge, Wiley R. Wright Jr. In the letter, dated April 12, Mr. Slonaker said the jury that recommended that Wilbert Lee Evans be executed had been given records of Mr. Evans's criminal past that were "seriously misleading and/or defective."

Mr. Evans was sentenced by Judge Wright in June 1981 for the fatal shooting of Deputy William Treadwell in an attempt to escape from the Alexandria city jail. Mr. Evans, from Raleigh, N.C., had been brought to Alexandria to testify as a state witness in a criminal case.

After the death sentence, Mr. Evans was sent to join 18 other death row inmates at Virginia's Mecklenburg Correctional Center. In April 1982, a week before he was to be executed, Mr. Evans telephoned the American Civil Liberties Union in Richmond and asked for help.

Two Days Before Execution
Chas. Kendrick, Virginia director of the A.C.L.U., sought the volunteer aid of an Alexandria criminal lawyer, Jonathan Shapiro. "I didn't want to get involved," Mr. Shapiro said in an interview. "But I agreed to help and I just got deeper and deeper into it and before I knew it I was Evans's lawyer."

Mr. Shapiro filed a petition with the court to block Mr. Evans's execution. Two days before Mr. Evans was scheduled to die the sentence was stayed.

Mr. Shapiro's research found that the jury in the case had been told of four past convictions in North Carolina in which Mr. Evans had no lawyer. Such convictions have been inadmissible to a sentencing jury since 1980.

It was also found that North Carolina prosecutors had dropped an assault charge against Mr. Evans that was presented to the Alexandria jury as a conviction.

The jury examined Mr. Evans's past violations in an effort to determine the likelihood that he might cause harm in the future, which is a factor in deciding on a possible death sentence.

Next Move Up to Judge
The Attorney General's action leaves the next move up to Judge Wright.

If Judge Wright does not vacate the sentence, Mr. Evans's lawyers could file an appeal in Federal court.

In his letter to the judge detailing the sentencing errors in the case, Mr. Slonaker wrote that, "in the interest of justice," the state was "constrained to concede that Wilbert Evans's current death sentence cannot be sustained" on appeal.

If the judge vacates the sentence, the Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney, John Knoch, will have to decide whether to ask that a second jury consider whether Mr. Evans should die or get life in prison.

Governor Refuses Clemency

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 19 (AP) — John Louis Evans 3d, a condemned murderer who is scheduled to be executed early Friday, told prison officials today that his lawyers would appeal to block the execution.

Hours earlier, Gov. George C. Wallace refused to grant clemency to Mr. Evans, 33 years old, who was sentenced to die for a slaying committed in a pawn shop holdup in 1977.

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